

Ms. Empey-Theep began her career with Milwaukee Public Schools over 20 years ago, and when she became MGIS' Principal in 1989, she brought a wealth of experience to the job. She knew that, to truly excel, MGIS needed to involve and empower students and their parents. Under her direction, that is exactly what MGIS has done. Last year, the Milwaukee PTA chose an MGIS teacher as Teacher of the Year and an MGIS parent as Parent of the Year. The school also won recognition from Redbook Magazine and several other distinctions, including what is perhaps the highest honor: designation by U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School.

Jane Empey-Theep has been actively and personally involved in leading MGIS toward excellence. She hasn't spent her time firmly seated behind her desk. She has been out interacting with the students and the staff, meeting with parents and educators and students. She has worked not only to execute troubleshooting, but also to identify and implement strategies for improvement, and she has empowered the educators, staff, parents and students of MGIS to do the same.

Now, after over two decades of service to Milwaukee Public Schools and 10 years as Principal, Jane Empey-Theep is hanging up her hall passes. Along with many others in our community, I commend her for the work to push the boundaries of educational excellence and admire her efforts to cultivate the talents of the students at MGIS.

As the parent of two MGIS students, I thank Jane Empey-Theep for making school a place where all kids can learn, grow and excel, and a place where they look forward to going. I am proud to join her friends and admirers in expressing appreciation for her career of dedicated service to our community, to our schools, and to our children.

—
A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS L.
CONLAN, JR.

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 7, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of a distinguished constituent and friend, Thomas L. Conlan, Jr. Tom is retiring as co-founder, President and CEO of Student Loan Funding Resources, Inc., which is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. Tom has helped to open the doors of college opportunity to hundreds of thousands of young people throughout Ohio and the nation during his nearly two decades of dedicated service in education.

In so many areas of his life, Tom's commitment has been to access and opportunity. He has played an important role in the development of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. A newly-created Ohio foundation, named for his father, Thomas L. Conlan, made a leadership gift to support and advance the Freedom Center's educational programs for both students and educators. The grant funds will be used to help develop a curriculum for school children focusing on the Underground Railroad, as well as highlighting struggles for freedom across the globe.

In the 1970s, prior to founding SLFR, Tom was Executive Director of the Ohio Energy Ad-

visory Committee, where he led the development of the Ohio winter heating assistance program. He also authored the Federal Home Assistance Program Plan for Ohio. In this work Tom testified before Congress and the Ohio General Assembly on energy assistance for low-income citizens.

His civic involvement over the years includes a founding membership in Ohio Concerned Citizens for the Arts; service on the City of Cincinnati's Energy Conservation Committee; the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Advisory Council to the Little Miami River; and co-chairmanship of the first Little Miami River (Cleanup involving 4,000 volunteers. In 1997, he chaired the Education Visioning Committee of the Greater Cincinnati Olympic Commission.

Tom is Vice President of the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board. He is a former trustee of the Queen City Foundation; the Greater Cincinnati Tall Stacks Commission; and the Catholic Big Brothers Association of Cincinnati.

Tom is also devoted to his family—his wife and partner, Nan; his stepchildren, Kate and Matt; his granddaughter, Morgan Ann; his brother, John, John; five sisters, Gretta, Maureen, Mary Carol, Ginny and Chris; and his nieces and nephews. He also carries dear the memory of his parents.

Nowhere has Tom been more directly responsible for improving the lives of people in need than in this stewardship of the education loan financing company, SLFR, that he co-founded. During his tenure, SLFR has provided funds and support services to more than 600,000 students. Tom has been a national leader in fashioning education loan policy to benefit America's students and their families.

In 1993, he helped establish the Coalition for Student Loan Reform that has been a beacon for industry self-reform nationwide. He advocated the superiority of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), a long-standing public-private partnership involving private funds, localized administration and loan guarantees from Washington.

Under Tom's leadership, SLFR developed innovative education loan credit products in Ohio that represent affordable education financing options. The Supplemental Student Loan Program of Ohio, which provides low-cost loans for students and families whose financing needs exceed the amount of assistance available through federal and state financial aid programs, and the Jump Start Loan, which rewards borrowers with a sharply reduced interest rate, are examples of these options.

Perhaps Tom's most important legacy will be the Thomas L. Conlan Education Foundation. The Foundation was established in June of 1998 from the re-organization of the original Student Loan Funding Corporation, which was co-founded by Tom and his father in 1981. The Foundation helps many Ohioans obtain an affordable, high quality education.

All of us in Cincinnati wish Tom well in his retirement. We expect his retirement years will reflect the same civic spirit that he has carried throughout his life.

HONORING THE FUTURES ACADEMY OF BENTON HARBOR AREA SCHOOLS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 7, 1999

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to honor the Futures Academy of the Benton Harbor Area Schools in Benton Harbor, Michigan. This organization is dedicated to providing education, guidance and new opportunities for students in my hometown.

Now, more than ever, as random acts of violence in our schools terrorize our schools, we must look to our communities for creative ways to keep kids on the right path, giving them a hopeful, bright future.

For two years now, this highly successful program has given students a chance to learn many of life's essential lessons that cannot always be taught in the classroom. In weekly discussions, they meet to discuss morality, values, and responsibility.

They learn respect for each other, respect for the community, and respect for themselves. In short, the skills and lessons they will need for the future. If the future is in the hands of these young adults, I think we are all in good hands.

They are visiting Washington, D.C. this week to learn more about their government and civic responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues here in the House to take notice of this great organization. By working together, Benton Harbor has put in place a successful program that is helping children grow from students into responsible, motivated young adults. It is formula that I would encourage my colleagues to promote in their own districts and communities.

These are really terrific kids. I am so impressed to see how they have dedicated themselves and agreed to work hard toward some very very important goals. Again, Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Futures Academy of Benton Harbor.

INTERNATIONAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION FOR AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 7, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing along with my colleagues Representatives HOUGHTON, MATSUI, SAM JOHNSON, HERGER, ENGLISH, and CRANE to introduce our bill, "The International Tax Simplification for American Competitiveness Act of 1999." There has been general agreement that the current U.S. rules for taxing international income are unduly complex. This legislation addresses these problems by rationalizing and simplifying the international tax provisions of the U.S. tax laws by simplifying foreign tax credits; encouraging exports; providing incentives for performance of research and developing in the United States; enhancing U.S. competitiveness in other industrialized countries; and minimizing revenue loss.